

and prepare himself for college. He attended La Marque Independent School District. He was a great athlete which enabled him to receive full college scholarship. He graduated in 1977 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

He parlayed this degree into a career of public service as Chief of Staff to Texas State Senator Royce West and me when I served in the Texas Senate. In addition, his more than three decades of state service included working for Ann Richards when she was the Texas Comptroller and with the Texas Employment Commission.

Jason was involved with many organizations such as the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee Union, the AFL-CIO and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His integrity and excellent service earned him various awards.

Jason was devoted to his wife, Janis DeGrate Justice, and to his family. In addition to Janis, he is survived by his children, Jason Justice, III, Christopher Justice, Derek D. Smith and Barbie Smith.

Many of us in Texas knew and admired Jason Justice. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jason, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory and in honor of this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jason Justice. We will not mourn that he has left us behind; rather we will rejoice what he has left behind.

HONORING THE MASSAPEQUA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, this weekend I had the privilege of joining in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Massapequa Fire Department. Founded on September 25, 1910, the Massapequa Fire Department has a long history of dedicated volunteerism and service to the Long Island community including Massapequa, Massapequa Park, and East Massapequa.

The Massapequa Fire Department provides around-the-clock fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 19,000 homes located within its district, responding to an average of 2,400 alarms annually.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to support our nation's firefighters in Congress. These brave men and women risk their lives day after day to protect our communities and save the lives of others. Through Federal programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate

Fire and Emergency Response Program, we can do our part in ensuring that these heroes get the equipment, vehicles, training, staffing and other resources they need.

I hope that this milestone in the Massapequa Fire Department's history reminds us of not only the traditional role that firefighters have always played in protecting our communities, but also how their role has changed since September 11, 2001, because now they are also faced with an increasingly complex and dangerous job of preparing for and responding to acts of terrorism. We must do all that we can to support them in their mission.

I want to thank Massapequa Fire Chief Peter Anglim for his leadership and service, and all of the firefighters, both active and retired, who have proudly served the Massapequa community. Congratulations on 100 years of dedicated service.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND ECO- NOMIC WELFARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I rise in support of several pieces of legislation before us this week that aim to improve the lives of our Nation's veterans.

As Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, it was my honor and privilege to help move some of these bills forward. I also thank the sponsors of these bills for their commitment to our veterans.

These bills make substantial improvements to the VA's job training programs, making veterans more attractive to small businesses to hire and train, and to ensure that veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental conditions are able to appeal their claims decisions if they miss an arbitrary deadline, set by a bureaucrat.

I strongly support the provision in H.R. 6132 which will allow veterans receiving a pension from the VA to keep receiving their pension in the event they are awarded a settlement for loss or injury. This will correct an extremely unfair part of current law that includes these payments as income when determining a veteran's eligibility for a means-based pension.

I am also glad that the House is addressing the issue of Retained Asset Accounts. We have heard a great deal about these accounts for recipients of Service Group Life Insurance Policies. H.R. 5993 will ensure that the families of veterans understand their rights and are fully informed of their options when their loved one passes.

Thank you again Mr. Speaker, and thank you to Chairman FILNER for his assistance in bringing these bills forward. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of these important bills.

ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND CURE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 1210, the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act. I have fought long and hard for this bill alongside the Arthritis Foundation, the American College of Rheumatology, and the thousands of advocates across the country who understand how important this is. The legislation enjoys the bipartisan support of 181 Members of the House, and passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously.

One out of every five adults suffers from arthritis, making it the most common cause of disability in the United States. More than 300,000 children suffer from juvenile arthritis. Early diagnosis for this disease is critical to ensure children get access to the right doctor and the care they need.

My bill will authorize the "National Arthritis Action Plan," giving legislative direction and leadership to a program which has proven successful since 1998. The Plan distributes important grants to states and nonprofits to carry out arthritis outreach and education activities. The bill expands the Secretary of Health and Human Services' authority to increase juvenile arthritis research at NIH, and authorizes important institutional training grants to increase the number of pediatric rheumatologists in the U.S.

I'm proud of the work I've done to raise awareness about the devastating effects of arthritis but I'm far prouder of the tireless work of the arthritis advocates who have walked these halls, called their Representatives, and shared their stories. Their grassroots efforts are at the heart of this bill and I'm so pleased we could work on this together.

Passage of the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act is also a tribute to my friend, Senator Edward Kennedy, as we introduced this legislation together in the 110th Congress. His commitment to public health, improving care for children, and ending suffering are the principles which guided everything he did and I know he's looking down on us today and smiling.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE SEP- TEMBER 29, 2009 TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK AMERICAN SAMOA, SAMOA AND TONGA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember those who lost their lives last year on September 29 when American Samoa was hit by the most powerful earthquake of 2009 which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa.

The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that